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Claims

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A vehicle window panel assembly, comprising in combination:

a window panel having an inner surface and an outer surface, and a geometric shape configured to fit within a window opening of a vehicle;

an opaque layer covering a predetermined area of said inner surface of said window
5 panel;

a vehicle interior accessory member configured to be attached to said inner surface of said window panel to said predetermined area containing said opaque layer; and

an adhesive for bonding said vehicle interior member to said inner surface of said window panel.

2. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said predetermined area of said inner surface having said opaque layer corresponds at least to a footprint of said vehicle interior accessory member attached to said inner surface of said window panel.

3. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein said vehicle interior accessory member includes at least one of a storage system, a lighting system, an instrument display system, a system control panel, a window panel shade assembly, a hand grip, and an interior trim component.

4. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein said footprint of said vehicle interior accessory member includes at least one of an island, a peninsula, a perimeter margin, and a strip traversing said inner surface of said window panel.

5. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said vehicle interior accessory member is pre-attached to said window panel and configured to be inserted in said window opening of said vehicle as a modular unit.

6. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 1, further including an attachment member bonded to said inner surface of said window panel for coupling said vehicle interior accessory member to said inner surface of said window panel.

7. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 6, wherein said attachment member includes at least one of a hook-and-loop fastener, an interlocking pin fastener, a threaded fastener, double-sided tape, a post, and a polymeric profile.

8. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein said polymeric profile includes at least one of a molded polymeric profile and an extruded polymeric profile.

9. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 8, wherein said polymeric profile is integral with a gasket attached to said window panel for attaching said window panel in said opening of said vehicle.

10. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said adhesive is selected from the group consisting essentially of single-component adhesives, multi-component adhesives, chemically activated adhesives, thermally activated adhesives, moisture-curable adhesives, thermoplastic adhesives, and thermoset adhesives.

11. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 10, further including an adhesion-promoting compound between said opaque layer and said adhesive.

12. A modular overhead window panel assembly for a vehicle, comprising in combination:
a window panel having inner and outer surfaces;
an attachment member bonded to said inner surface of said window panel; and
an interior accessory component of the vehicle interconnected to said inner surface of said

5 window panel by said attachment member.

13. The modular window panel assembly as defined in claim 12, further including an adhesive between said attachment member and said window panel for bonding said attachment member to said inner surface of said window panel.

14. The modular window panel assembly as defined in claim 13, further including an opaque coating on at least a portion of said inner surface of said window panel and receiving said adhesive.

15. The modular window panel assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said attachment member is selected from the group consisting essentially of at least one of a hook-and-loop fastener, an interlocking pin fastener, a threaded fastener, an adhesive tape, a polymeric profile, and a metal post.

16. The modular window panel assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said interior accessory component of the vehicle includes at least one of an interior accessory component and an interior trim component.

17. The modular window panel assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein said interior accessory component includes at least one of a storage assembly, a lighting assembly, an instrument display assembly, a control assembly, a window shade assembly, and a hand-hold assembly.

18. The modular window panel assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein said interior trim component includes at least one of a headliner and a trim molding.

19. A window panel assembly for a vehicle, comprising in combination:
an overhead window panel of predetermined geometric shape and configured to close an overhead window opening of the vehicle, said window panel having interior and exterior sides terminating in a peripheral edge;

- 5 an overhead interior vehicle accessory assembly attached to said interior side of said window panel, said accessory assembly having a footprint facing said interior side of said overhead window panel;
- an opaque area between said window panel and said accessory assembly, and said opaque area generally corresponding to said footprint of said accessory assembly; and
- 10 an attachment member interconnecting said accessory assembly to said interior side of said window panel.
20. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said opaque area defines a perimeter.
21. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said opaque area defines a peninsula.
22. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said opaque area defines an island.
23. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said opaque area defines a strip.
24. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 23, wherein said strip is along a center-line of the window panel.
25. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said attachment member includes at least one of a polymeric bead, a hook-and-loop fastener, a post fastener, a double-sided adhesive tape, and an interlocking pin fastener.

26. An overhead vehicle window panel assembly, comprising in combination:
a window panel having inner and exterior surfaces terminating in a peripheral edge;
an interior accessory attached to said inner surface of said window panel, said accessory defining at least one of a perimeter border, an island, a peninsula, and a strip extending across
5 said inner surface; and
an attachment member interconnecting said interior accessory to said inner surface of said window panel.
27. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 26, wherein said attachment member includes at least one of a hook-and-loop fastener, an interlocking pin fastener, a double-sided tape, a post, and a polymeric bead.
28. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 26, wherein said polymeric bead includes an adhesive bonding said attachment member to said inner surface.
29. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 28, wherein said adhesive is selected from the group consisting essentially of single-component adhesives, multi-component adhesives, chemically activated adhesives, thermally activated adhesives, moisture-curable adhesives, thermoplastic adhesives, and thermoset adhesives.
30. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 29, wherein said multi-component adhesive includes two-component urethanes.
31. A window panel assembly for a vehicle, comprising in combination:
a window panel having an inner and outer surfaces, configured to fit in a window opening of the vehicle;
a vehicle accessory mounting member attached to one of said inner and outer surfaces
5 of said window panel; and
a two-component urethane attaching said vehicle accessory mounting member to said window panel.

32. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 31, further including an opaque coating on said one surface to generally conceal an attachment point of said vehicle accessory mounting member from an opposite side of said window panel.

33. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 32, wherein said vehicle accessory mounting member is attached to at least one of a perimeter, a peninsular area, an island area, a strip area, and a centerline of said window panel.

34. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein said vehicle accessory mounting member includes at least one of a storage system, a lighting system, an instrument display, a system control panel, a window panel shade, a hand grip, a sun visor assembly, and an interior trim.

35. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said vehicle accessory mounting is attached to said window panel prior to installation in the vehicle.

36. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 34, further including a plurality of attachment members interconnecting said vehicle accessory to said one of said inner and outer surfaces of said window panel.

37. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 36, wherein said attachment members include at least one of a hook-and-loop fastener, an interlocking pin fastener, a threaded fastener, a post, a double-sided tape, and a polymeric profile or bead.

38. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 31, wherein said vehicle accessory is detachable from said window panel.

39. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 31, wherein said vehicle accessory includes overhead accessories.

40. The window panel assembly as defined in claim 31, further including an adhesion-promoting compound between said two-component urethane and said window panel.

41. A vehicle window panel assembly, comprising in combination:

a window panel having inner and outer surfaces terminating in a peripheral edge, said edge of said window panel defining an upper edge configured to be located proximate an upper edge of a vehicle window opening;

5 an opaque coating bonded to at least a portion of said inner surface of said window panel proximate said peripheral edge; and

at least one sun visor assembly adhesively mounted to said opaque coating on said inner surface proximate said upper edge of said window panel.

42. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 41, wherein said at least one sun visor assembly includes:

a mounting member having one surface bonded to said opaque coating on said inner surface of said window panel;

5 an arm pivotally coupled to, and extending from, said mounting member; and

a sun visor panel pivotally attached to said arm.

43. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 42, wherein said at least one sun visor assembly, includes a bracket attached to said opaque coating and configured to receive at least one of said arm and said sun visor panel in a stowed position.

44. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 42, wherein said at least one sun visor assembly includes:

a lamp assembly; and

5 at least one of a power strip, and a pair of conductors extending along said inner surface of said window panel for interconnecting said lamp assembly to a power supply.

45. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 41, further including an adhesive for bonding said at least one sun visor assembly to said opaque coating.

46. The vehicle window panel assembly as defined in claim 45, wherein said adhesive includes a two-component urethane adhesive.